

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

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R 031255Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1942

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 1 6 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, UR (SINYAVIN, IGOR' IVANOVICH)

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL EMIGREE: LENINGRAD WRITER/ARTIST I. I.

SINYAVIN

REF: LENINGRAD 0134 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL WRITER/ARTIST/DISSIDENT/ACTIVITY IGOR' IVANOVICH
SINYAVIN, BORN OCTOBER 10, 1937 IN LENINGRAD OBLAST', APPEARED AT
CONGEN JANUARY 29 SEEKING INFORMATION ON EMIGRATING TO U.S.
SINYAVIN, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN EFFORTS OF LOCAL UNOFFICIAL
ARTISTS TO DISPLAY WORKS AND MOST RECENTLY WAS ONE OF PARTICIPATNS
ARRESTED IN ABORTIVE "DECEMBRISTS' DEMONSTRATION", ALREADY HAS
RECEIVED INVITATION FROM ACQUAINTANCE TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL WITH
WIFE (BORN 1949) AND TWO CHILDREN (SON BORN 1970, DAUGHTER BORN
1971). PER SINYAVIN'S STATEMENTS, LOCAL OVIR AGREED TO PROCESS
REQUEST FOR EMIGRATION AND GAVE
CNDLED. HOWEVER, WHEN SINYAVIN LEARNED

THAT VOLUNTARY RENUNCIATION OF SOVIET CITIZENSHIP REQUIRED FOR
EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL (ONLY COUNTRY FOR WHICH SUCH RENUNCIATION
DEMANDED), HE REFUSED ON ETHICAL GROUNDS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HIS
ACTUAL GOAL IS U.S., NOT ISRAEL. HE SHOWED CONSOFF PETITION SIGNED
BY NUMBER OF LOCAL DISSIDENTS SUPPORTING HIS POSITION THAT RIGHT
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TO EMIGRATE NEED NOT REQUIRE RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP. OVIR

OFFICIALS, WHO CLEARLY SEEM AS ANXIOUS TO HAVE SINYAVIN LEAVE AS HE IS TO GO, STATED THAT IF HE COULD OBTAIN INVITATION TO U.S. OR ANY OTHER WESTERN COUNTRY, THEY WOULD ACCEPT AND PROCESS HIS APPLICATION WITHOUT REQUIRING RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP.

2. SINYAVIN INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR OBTAINING INVITATION TO U.S. WHILE HE DID NOT INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR TIME PRESSURES, HE COMMENTED THAT HE AND FAMILY PREPARED TO LEAVE AT ANY TIME AND HOPED OVIR WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS CURRENTLY FAVORABLE POSITION IN MEANTIME. HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH ONE OF IREX SENIOR SCHOLARS CURRENTLY IN LENINGRAD, BUT THIS INDIVIDUAL RELUCTANT TO SPONSOR INVITATION TO SINYAVIN BECAUSE OF ITS POSSIBLE EFFECT ON SCHOLAR'S POSITION IN IREX PROGRAM, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE FUTURE TRAVELS HE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE TO USSR. (FYI: SCHOLAR, WHO IS LITERATURE SPECIALIST, COMMENTED THAT BASED ON HIS LIMITED READING OF SINYAVIN'S PROSE AND POETRY, HE FEELS SINYAVIN IS WRITER OF TALENT. SCHOLAR'S CONTACTS AMONG LOCAL ARTISTIC COMMUNITY ALSO SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE REGARD FOR SINYAVIN'S WORK.)

3. SINYAVIN HAS NO RELATIVES IN U.S. HE ALSO KNOWS OF NO U.S. CONTACTS WHO ARE IN POSITION TO SPONSOR HIS INVITATION. ON BASIS OF INTERVIEW AND INFORMATION HE PROVIDED IN IMMIGRANT VISA QUESTIONNAIRE, THERE IS NO INDICATION HE WOULD BE INELIGIBLE FOR U.S. IMMIGRANT VISA. SINYAVIN SEEMS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND HIS QUIET, BUT FIRM AND SELF-CONFIDENT MANNER MADE OVERALL POSITIVE IMPRESSION.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF TOLSTOY FOUNDATION OR OTHER VOLAG WILLING TO PROVIDE VYZOV FOR SINYAVIN. HE RESIDES WITH FAMILY AT TOSNO, LENINGRAD OBLAST', ULITSA OKTYABRSKAYA 102. VYZOV MAY BE SENT TO CONGEN FOR DELIVERY TO SINYAVIN. NEUBERT

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